

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACT IMMEDIATE
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NODIS
CHEROKEE, FOR SAUNDERS, EILTS AND LEWIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, XF, US

SUBJECT:LONDON MIDDLE EAST TALKS

REF: (A) ALEXANDRIA 509, (B) ALEXANDRIA 513

1. FOR CAIRO: YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO MUBARAK AND/OR
SADAT AND MAKE ANOTHER MAJOR EFFORT TO PURSUADE EGYPTIANS
TO STICK WITH THE REVISED SCENARIO SUGGESTED TO YOU BY
KAMEL FOR LONDON TALKS--I.E., JULY 18-19. YOU SHOULD SAY
THAT THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY HAVE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED
THE LATEST SCENARIO SUGGESTED BY SADAT AND, WHILE THEY ARE
SENSITIVE TO HIS CONCERNS ABOUT NUMAYRI, THEY SEE SERIOUS
PROBLEMS WITH THE FURTHER DELAY SADAT HAS SUGGESTED. IT
IS BY NOW COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT LONDON TALKS ARE UNDER
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 167992

CONSIDERATION. TO DELAY EVEN ANNOUNCING THEM ANOTHER
THREE WEEKS WILL NOT ONLY STRAIN CREDIBILITY BUT WILL ALSO
MEAN THERE WILL BE EXTENDED PERIOD DURING WHICH SPECU-
LATION WILL HAVE A FREE REIN AND PRESSURES AGAINST SUCH
TALKS WILL MOUNT FROM ALL DIRECTIONS. WHETHER OR NOT
THEY HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED BEFORE THE OAU SUMMIT,
THEY WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF WIDESPREAD DISCUSSION DURING

THIS PERIOD, AND THE PROBLEM SADAT SEES VIS-A-VIS NUMAYRI WILL EXIST IN ANY CASE. IN THIS CONNECTION, IF SADAT

BELIEVES IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD BE PLEASED TO SEND A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO NUMAYRI EXPLAINING THAT THE TALKS ARE AT HIS INITIATIVE AND THE REASONS WE BELIEVE THEY ARE IMPORTANT.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING, THERE ARE TWO PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH ARGUE AGAINST THE KIND OF SCENARIO SADAT PROPOSES. FIRST, THE SECRETARY WILL BE IN EUROPE WITH THE PRESIDENT FOR THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT JULY 14-17 AND AVAILABLE TO ATTEND LONDON TALKS IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. IF TALKS ARE DELAYED UNTIL ABOUT JULY 21, HE WOULD HAVE TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON AFTER THE SUMMIT AND IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO REARRANGE HIS SCHEDULE AT THIS POINT TO GO BACK TO EUROPE FOR LONDON TALKS THREE OR FOUR DAYS LATER. IN ADDITION, EVEN IF TALKS WERE DELAYED UNTIL ABOUT JULY 21 WITH ANNOUNCEMENT JULY 20 AS SADAT SUGGESTS, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO MAKE NECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS (INCLUDING HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR THREE DELEGATIONS DURING BUSY TOURIST SEASON). IT IS IN FACT NECESSARY TO BEGIN ALMOST IMMEDIATELY MAKING THOSE ARRANGEMENTS ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS, AND THIS ITSELF WILL LEAD TO FURTHER PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND SPECULATION.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 167992

3. FOR ALL THESE REASONS, PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY CONTINUE TO FEEL STRONGLY THAT WE SHOULD STAY WITH THE SCENARIO DISCUSSED WITH KAMEL, I.E., CONVEY EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL TO ISRAELIS JULY 4 (WHICH THEY ARE ALREADY EXPECTING ABOUT THAT TIME), TRANSMIT PRESIDENT CARTER'S FORMAL INVITATION TO BEGIN AND SADAT ABOUT JULY 7, AND ISSUE ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT JULY 8 THAT TALKS WILL TAKE PLACE IN LONDON JULY 18-19.

4. FOR JERUSALEM: WE HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR VICE PRESIDENT TO WEIGH IN IN SUPPORT OF STICKING TO THE JULY 18-19 SCENARIO WHEN HE SEES SADAT OR, ALTERNATIVELY, FOR MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY TO DO THIS WITH SENIOR EGYPTIANS DURING VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO ALEXANDRIA. MEANWHILE, YOU SHOULD TELL ISRAELIS THAT THERE IS A COMPLICATION ON EGYPTIAN SIDE ABOUT DATES FOR LONDON TALKS BECAUSE JULY 18-19 TO COINCIDE WITH OAU SUMMIT AND THAT WE ARE STILL TRYING TO WORK THINGS OUT WITH SADAT. VANCE

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